

Warrior Nine Taking Shape

Wakefield's baseball team is beginning to take definite shape this week as the basketball and wrestling boys come trickling in to the daily work outs and Coach Mort Irwin is beginning to place his lads in positions to which they seem best suited.

Frank Stevens and Lou Schweickhardt are the two foremost candidates for the first base

while Gary Parker and Al Bauserman are leading the race for third sack.

In the outfield the Warriors have several good looking prospects in Joe Morris, Dan Breedon, and other lads roaming the pasture.

Irwin and assistant coach Maynard Haithcock are taking a good look at several veterans who have just come out after taking a prescribed rest following the basketball season.

Still missing from the practice field are Henry Mayo, Don Baldwin, Gary Arenson, Rick Schlopohl and pitcher Leo Varden.

Mike Davis, a lad who is out for the Warrior squad for the first time, has been the most consistent slugger this spring and has a shining opportunity to make the club if he keeps up his current pace. Davies hasn't been blasting the ball out of the county but he has been meeting it well and pounding out some impressive line drives.

Catcher Ken Darling is the leading candidate for the backstop position, and his batting average of .391 would be a big help to the Warriors, but he has had trouble with his feet and remains a question mark.

In the pitching department Irwin has 13 prospects, all of them rated at least an outside chance of making the team.

Most improved moundsman to date is Hallie Lightle, a tall, skinny righthander who played for Wakefield last year. Movies of last spring's drills revealed the fact that Hallie's follow-through movement wasn't perfect and this flaw has been removed. Lightle now has greater speed and should have a happy season.

Bob Stauffer, a lad with five years of Recreation Department baseball under his belt, is another aspirant for a job as a hurler. Bob is a sophomore and has a good chance of making the club.

Southpaw Gorman Purdy has increased speed and probably the best curve on the team, but unless he settles down and gains control he won't be much help this year. Veteran Mort McGill, another southpaw, is back and whipping himself into shape, while his brother Lloyd is trying for a job as a hurler.

Mort put his stalwarts through a few time trials today, with each kid running a lone race against the clock. Doc Kugler showed greatest speed with a 4.6 tabulation for the 40 yard skip.

Wakefield is having its infield sodded in the school's new baseball diamond today and the backstop has been ordered. A temporary outfield fence might go up but there is some discussion over how much the intramural field should be cut off by the varsity outfield.